

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1802

August 12, 2021

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

I write as the U.S. Representative for the 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana, a region that includes an industrial hub of nearly 150 oil refineries, plastics plants, and chemical facilities spanning from Baton Rouge to New Orleans, but that is foremost, an area that thousands of families call home. I look forward to working together to ensure that industry officials and communities are provided the resources necessary to garner clear, scientific facts surrounding plants emission levels and corresponding public health outcomes.

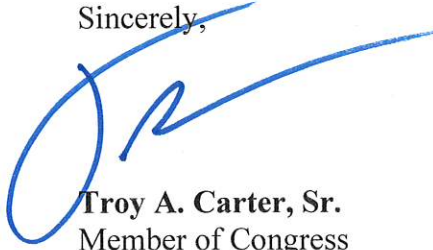
President Biden has stated that environmental justice will be at the center of any action the Administration takes in addressing disproportionate health and environmental impacts on communities, especially communities of color. I am committed to working together to answer that call to action, as the industrial corridor in my district has been identified as such an area.

Some business groups and community leaders, however, have claimed that data does not support certain labels placed on the communities in my district. Until we fully understand what the impact of industrial emissions are on the health and safety of our environment and communities, we cannot begin to claim that upholding the health and safety of our constituents is our top priority.

As the Representative for this region, I ask for increased resources to provide monitoring and testing to produce data that can help create standards of accountability and fair regulation based in scientific fact. Additionally, I ask for all possible federal assistance in ensuring our industrial businesses operate as cleanly as possible and that you assist them in developing new, cleaner technologies so that our environment can be even better than it is today. I also ask for more resources to better understand the other causes of cancer so that all health risks are being dealt with holistically. Specifically, I call for third-party monitoring as there is a documented history of self-monitoring being inadequate. Finally, I call for resources to be dedicated to the cumulative impact modeling on health impacts of the industrial corridor from independent experts in the field. The collection of independent, reliable data will allow federal, state, and local governments to make informed decisions to better the public health of our community as a whole.

Thank you for your continued work and dedication to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s mission. It is a core belief of mine that no one should die for a job and that there are solutions that can provide a clean environment alongside industry. I stand ready to work with you to ensure that our parishes are models of environmental stewardship while still maintaining a robust economy. I also invite you to visit our parishes and see first-hand the vibrant communities we are trying to protect. Working together, we can ensure that everyone in my district receives transparent and factual data to best ensure regulations are met and guided by the need to protect public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress